

Talk a Lot

Books

Sentence Blocks

1. (*Present Simple*) I usually read a crime novel on the bus home.

What

2. (*Present Continuous*) Sheila and her grandson are driving to the library to renew their library books.

Where

3. (*Past Simple*) John forgot to take his geography book to class on Tuesday.

When

4. (*Past Continuous*) We were browsing in the second-hand bookshop for more than half an hour.

How long

5. (*Present Perfect*) Erica has translated twelve books into Spanish.

Who

6. (*Modal Verbs*) You can copy some of my ebooks later, if you want.

What

7. (*Future Forms*) Gerald Forster will sign five hundred copies of his latest thriller at Harold's Bookshop on Thursday 28th May.

How many

8. (*First Conditional*) If I remember the plot and characters of *War and Peace*, I'll probably pass the literature exam.

Which

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*Note: the last two lines of each sentence block will vary. Below there are examples given for each sentence block, but students should think of their own way to get the negative forms in the last line. See the **Talk a Lot Elementary Handbook** for full instructions (available free from <https://purlandtraining.com/>).*

Answers

1. (Present Simple) I usually read a crime novel on the bus home. / What do you usually read on the bus home? / A crime novel. / Do you usually read a crime novel on the bus home? / Yes, I do. / Do you usually read a classic novel on the bus home? / No, I don't. I don't usually read a classic novel on the bus home.
2. (Present Continuous) Sheila and her grandson are driving to the library to renew their library books. / Where are Sheila and her grandson driving to? / To the library. / Are Sheila and her grandson driving to the library to renew their library books? / Yes, they are. / Are Sheila and her grandson driving to the bookstore to renew their library books? / No, they aren't. Sheila and her grandson aren't driving to the bookstore to renew their library books.
3. (Past Simple) John forgot to take his geography book to class on Tuesday. / When did John forget to take his geography book to class? / On Tuesday. / Did John forget to take his geography book to class on Tuesday? / Yes, he did. / Did John forget to take his geography book to class on Wednesday afternoon? / No, he didn't. John didn't forget to take his geography book to class on Wednesday afternoon.
4. (Past Continuous) We were browsing in the second-hand bookshop for more than half an hour. / How long were you browsing in the second-hand bookshop for? / For more than half an hour. / Were you browsing in the second-hand bookshop for more than half an hour? / Yes, we were. / Were you browsing in the second-hand bookshop for about ten minutes? / No, we weren't. We weren't browsing in the second-hand bookshop for about ten minutes.
5. (Present Perfect) Erica has translated twelve books into Spanish. / Who has translated twelve books into Spanish? / Erica has. / Has Erica translated twelve books into Spanish? / Yes, she has. / Has Robbie translated twelve books into Spanish? / No, he hasn't. Robbie hasn't translated twelve books into Spanish.
6. (Modal Verbs) You can copy some of my ebooks later, if you want. / What can I copy later, if I want? / Some of my ebooks. / Can I copy some of your ebooks later, if I want? / Yes, you can. / Can I copy some of your DVDs later, if I want? / No, you can't. You can't copy any of my DVDs later.
7. (Future Forms) Gerald Forster will sign five hundred copies of his latest thriller at Harold's Bookshop on Thursday 28th May. / How many copies of his latest thriller will Gerald Forster sign at Harold's Bookshop on Thursday 28th May? / Five hundred. / Will Gerald Forster sign five hundred copies of his latest thriller at Harold's Bookshop on Thursday 28th May? / Yes, he will. / Will Gerald Forster sign five thousand copies of his latest thriller at Harold's Bookshop on Thursday 28th May? / No, he won't. Gerald Forster won't sign five thousand copies of his latest thriller at Harold's Bookshop on Thursday 28th May.
8. (First Conditional) If I remember the plot and characters of *War and Peace*, I'll probably pass the literature exam. / Which exam will you probably pass if you remember the plot and characters of *War and Peace*? / The literature exam. / Will you probably pass the literature exam, if you remember the plot and characters of *War and Peace*? / Yes, I probably will. / Will you probably pass the chemistry exam, if you remember the plot and characters of *War and Peace*? / No, I probably won't. I probably won't pass the chemistry exam, if I remember the plot and characters of *War and Peace*.

Sentence Block Extensions

For all of the sentence block starting sentences there are at least two different wh- question words that can be used to make sentence blocks. In one case seven different sentence blocks can be made from the same starting sentence when using different wh- question words. There isn't room here to print in full all of the sentence block extensions from this unit. Hopefully, the answers given above will give you the teacher (or you the student) enough guidance to be able to make the sentence block extensions for this unit with confidence.

For example, let's look at the seventh starting sentence from this unit:

Gerald Forster will sign five hundred copies of his latest thriller at Harold's Bookshop on Thursday 28th May.

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On the handout the wh- question word that is given is “How many”, but this starting sentence also works equally well with six other wh- question words and phrases: “What” (x2), “Where”, “When”, “Who”, and “Which”:

What will Gerald Forster sign at Harold’s Bookshop on Thursday 28th May? / Five hundred copies of his latest thriller.

What will Gerald Forster do at Harold’s Bookshop on Thursday 28th May? / Sign five hundred copies of his latest thriller.

Where will Gerald Forster sign five hundred copies of his latest thriller on Thursday 28th May? / At Harold’s Bookshop.

When will Gerald Forster sign five hundred copies of his latest thriller at Harold’s Bookshop? / On Thursday 28th May.

Who will sign five hundred copies of his latest thriller at Harold’s Bookshop on Thursday 28th May? / Gerald Forster will.

Which thriller will Gerald Forster sign five hundred copies of at Harold’s Bookshop on Thursday 28th May? / His latest thriller.

The idea is easy. Change the wh- question word each time and you can make several completely different sentence blocks from the original starting sentence, simply by finding the relevant information for the answer in the starting sentence. As you can see below, sometimes the same wh- question word can be used more than once to make different sentence blocks.

You could cut out and give the section below to students:

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Books

Make new sentence blocks from the starting sentences in this unit using different “wh-” question words:

	WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	WHO	WHY	WHICH	HOW
1.	what (2 nd) what kind	where	when	who			
2.	what			who	why	which	
3.	what (x2)	where		who		which	
4.	what	where		who		which	
5.	what (x2)					which	how many
6.	what (2 nd)		when	who			how many
7.	what (x2)	where	when	who		which	
8.	what (x2)						

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Books

Sentence Blocks

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Sentence Blocks – Sentence Stress and Vowel Sounds

Task 1: Circle the content words in the following starting sentences. (For answer, see Task 2 below.)

Books

1. I usually read a crime novel on the bus home.
2. Sheila and her grandson are driving to the library to renew their library books.
3. John forgot to take his geography book to class on Tuesday.
4. We were browsing in the second-hand bookshop for more than half an hour.
5. Erica has translated twelve books into Spanish.
6. You can copy some of my ebooks later, if you want.
7. Gerald Forster will sign five hundred copies of his latest thriller at Harold's Bookshop on Thursday the twenty eighth of May.
8. If I remember the plot and characters of *War and Peace*, I'll probably pass the literature exam.

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Sentence Blocks – Sentence Stress and Vowel Sounds

Task 2: Underline the stressed syllable in each content word, shown in black. (For answer, see Task 3 below.)

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Sentence Blocks

Sentence Blocks – Sentence Stress and Vowel Sounds

Task 3: Write the correct vowel sound above each stressed syllable (underlined). (For answer, see below.)

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Sentence Blocks – Sentence Stress and Vowel Sounds

Each content word (shown in black) contains one syllable with a strong stress, which is underlined. Each stressed syllable has one vowel sound. The vowel sounds on stressed syllables are the most important sounds in the sentence. They make the “sound spine” of the sentence. To improve communication, try to get the sound spine right.

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1. I usually read a crime novel on the bus home.
/u:/ /i:/ /aɪ/ /ɒ/ /ʌ/ /əʊ/
2. Sheila and her grandson are driving to the library to renew their library books.
/i:/ /æ/ /aɪ/ /aɪ/ /u:/ /aɪ/ /ʊ/
3. John forgot to take his geography book to class on Tuesday.
/ɒ/ /ɒ/ /eɪ/ /ɒ/ /ʊ/ /ɑ:/ /u:/
4. We were browsing in the second-hand bookshop for more than half an hour.
/aʊ/ /e/ /æ/ /ʊ/ /ɑ:/ /aʊə/
5. Erica has translated twelve books into Spanish.
/e/ /eɪ/ /e/ /ʊ/ /æ/
6. You can copy some of my ebooks later, if you want.
/ɒ/ /i:/ /eɪ/ /ɒ/
7. Gerald Forster will sign five hundred copies of his latest thriller at Harold's Bookshop on Thursday the twenty eighth of May.
/ɔ:/ /aɪ/ /aɪ/ /ʌ/ /ɒ/ /eɪ/ /ɪ/ /æ/ /ʊ/ /ɜ:/ /e/ /eɪ/ /eɪ/
8. If I remember the plot and characters of War and Peace, I'll probably pass the literature exam.
/e/ /ɒ/ /æ/ /ɔ:/ /i:/ /ɒ/ /ɑ:/ /ɪ/ /æ/